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Key West Early Morning Rain

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Key West Early Morning Rain

Jeanne Chase

Yesterday's ocean
brilliant as turquoise
lined with coral ribbons
lies fieldstone grey
in early mist.

Last night's rumble
of low steel drums,
laughing voices
in exotic tongues,
hover dreamlike
over sleeping streets
as rain clouds ripen.

First drops pounce
on pastel porches
of gingerbread mansions.
Rain streaks down
the banyan tree's
many-stalked trunk,
organized as asparagus.

Outside my window
an old man smiles at the sky,
his face dark and lined
as of one who has slept
too often in the sun.

His tattered pants rolled
high above bare feet,
he sways, his waving arms
embracing cleansing rain
on forehead, cheeks,
his dancing feet.

Beneath him
sidewalk cracks
like rivulets to river
rush rain to curb to
shiny pool
as first light breaks.